

APPROVED
DODDBHH Advisory Council Minutes
Friday March 11, 2016 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Peckham, Inc.
3510 Capital City Blvd
Lansing, MI 48906

Council Members Present

Jill Gaus, Chair
Karen Bailey
David Barbour
Elizabeth Bystrycki
Christopher Hunter
Jeannette Johnson
Elizabeth Kobylak
Ann Liming
Kathleen Mitchell
Todd Morrison

Council Members Excused

Miriam Horwitz
Katlyn Maviglia
Carole Mehling

DODDBHH Staff

Annie Urasky, Director
Karlee Rose Gruetzner, Rights Representative
Cara Di Giovanni, Rights Representative
Alayna Zerlentes, Secretary

MDCR Executive Staff

Dr. Agustin Arbulu, Exec. Director, MDCR
Colleen Pero, Deputy Director, MDCR
Lori Vinson, Director of Operations, MDCR
Dan Levy, Director of Law and Policy, MDCR

Interpreters

Veronica Balcarcel
James Cech
Jennifer Doerr
Kelly Flores
Jeanette Gladstone
Stacey Hachey
Janie Hernandez
Mitch Holaly
Lera Lowrie
Amanda Niven
Erin Parrish
Jamie Rix
Lisa Rowinski
Bert Schwartz
Shelly Tocco

CART Provider

Sue Deer Hall

Haptic/Support Service Providers

Callie Brown
Nick Chizmadia
Brittnie Denhof
Danielle Douglass
Sam Herron
Mason Lewis
Jessica Meek
Emily Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jill Gaus, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH) Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM and welcomed everyone, and introduced three newly appointed Advisory Council Members: Karen Bailey, Chris Hunter, and Todd Morrison in addition to one reappointed Advisory Council Member: Ann Liming. Chair Gaus reviewed the Communication Policy. Karlee Rose Gruetzner explained the hands-down rule for the interpreters and reminded everyone about protocol for public comments. Roll call was taken by Director Annie Urasky and there was a quorum to hold the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the May 2015 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Bystrycki motioned to accept the May 2015 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the October 2015 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Bystrycki motioned to accept the October 2015 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. Council Member Kobylak had two corrections to make. Council Member Bailey motioned to accept the October 2015 Meeting Minutes with the noted corrections. Council Member Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MOTION: Chair Gaus requested a motion to approve the March 2016 Agenda. Council Member Morrison motioned to approve the Agenda with Council Member Liming's request to add Hard of Hearing Specialist to the agenda under New Business. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Urasky thanked the previous Council Members whose terms expired and welcomed the newly appointed Members. She also introduced the new Director of MDCR, Dr. Agustin Arbulu. Director Urasky reported on Fiscal Year 2015 Interpreter Testing statistics. She also reported on the Offensive Language Bill Package which was sent to the House Health Policy Committee for vote and if passed, then will be sent to the Senate Health Policy Committee. Director Urasky also provided updates on the recent posting of the Michigan Certified Interpreter Policies and Procedures with several FAQs to be released to provide additional clarification. She also updated the Advisory Council regarding the DODDBHH office relocation to Detroit.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

Chair Gaus

Chair Gaus reported she is one of the trainers for a DeafBlind workshop coming up on June 11, 2016 for certified interpreters who intend to apply for DeafBlind Endorsements. The DeafBlind Workshop will be August 11-14, 2016. Forms will be sent out May 2016 with full details.

Council Member Bailey

There was no report from Council Member Bailey.

Council Member Barbour

There was no report from Council Member Barbour.

Council Member Bystrycki

Council Member Bystrycki announced she still has “I am deaf” cards for distribution if anyone is interested. She also reported many deaf people are confused about the new rules for Social Security benefits and wondered if there were useful resources which could be shared with the community.

Council Member Horwitz

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member Horwitz’s absence. She would like to find out how the state ensures each medical provider is aware of their legal obligations under the ADA for providing accommodations when requested by individuals who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing. Many hospitals are aware of the ADA requirements and exceptions but many private practices do not believe they are responsible to provide, hire, and pay for interpreting services which denies many individuals the opportunity of equal access. Educating and disseminating information statewide to every private practitioner in the state is important. Maybe a pamphlet on ADA requirements could be sent annually to medical practitioners when they renew their licenses with the State of Michigan.

Council Member Hunter

There was no report from Council Member Hunter.

Council Member Johnson

Council Member Johnson reported she is still trying to recruit individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing to apply to serve on the Center of Independent Living Council. Her agency is working to recruit more CDIs and tri-lingual interpreters due to more requests for tri-lingual interpreters such as Spanish and ASL interpreters.

Council Member Kobylak

Council Member Kobylak indicated she would provide her report as the President of HLAA-MI.

Council Member Liming

Council Member Liming reported that she has given input on legislative bills such as the Offensive Language Bills and the Mental Health Bill that the social work taskforce is working on. She also reported that as a member of the HLA-Michigan Advocacy Committee, she has been assessing the need for CART standards. Following discussion, it was decided it would be premature to begin developing CART standards at this time. HLAA-MI needs to first identify all CART providers in Michigan and provide education on the various needs of hard of hearing people. Many CART providers use stenographic machines which types out words based on sounds, not spelling, which could mean multiple keystrokes for one word if it has multiple syllables. Interpreter switches during meetings are just as important for CART providers. Regarding the Flint water crisis, the HLAA-MI Advocacy Committee wanted to do something for people with hearing loss who live in Flint and they reached out to Michigan School for the Deaf which

requested money donations in lieu of water bottle donations.

Council Member Maviglia

Chair Gaus read a report in Council Member Maviglia's absence. In December 2015, two young women were awarded hearing aids through The KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing. Summer fundraisers are in the works and she has been in contact with Senator Dale Zorn regarding SB 449 but does not have new information to share at this time.

Council Member Mehling

There was no report from Council Member Mehling.

Council Member Mitchell

Council Member Mitchell continues to work with the social work task force on discussing the draft of the Deaf mental health bill. Further reports will be provided under New Business.

Council Member Morrison

There was no report from Council Member Morrison.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gaus indicated a three minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and five people requested to speak.

LUNCH

Chair Gaus indicated the Council Meeting will pause from noon until 1:00PM for lunch.

6. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

President of MDA

Todd Morrison, President of Michigan Deaf Association (MDA) provided a report. General elections for MDA officer positions were held in August 2015 during the MDA Conference and no nominations were offered. No one was interested in running for office and the previous officers stayed on to ensure the organization would not fold. MDA has hosted meetings trying to assess how to continue as an organization and further community meetings will be scheduled. MDA currently has 56 members when historically, they had at least 500 members. He discussed possible reasons such as disenfranchisement as to why member numbers have drastically dropped.

President of SHI-MI=DB

Arizona Welch, President of Self-Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-MI=DB) provided a report. The board is still discussing several legislative efforts, such as the mental health bill that the social work taskforce is introducing. The next board meeting is August 2016 and the DeafBlind Workshop will be August 11-14, 2016. SHI-MI=DB currently has 172 current members, including both DeafBlind members and other members at large.

President of HLAA-MI

Liz Kobylak, President of Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLAA-MI) provided a report. The HLAA-MI annual state meeting will be on April 9, 2016 at the State of Michigan Historical Museum and Library from 10-3. It is a free event with an exhibit hall

and a featured speaker, Dr. Juliette Sterkens who will be speaking about hearing loops. The Walk4Hearing event will be on May 21, 2016 at Kensington Metro Park. The National Convention for HLAA will be from June 23-June 26, 2016 in Washington DC in collaboration with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People Congress. HLAA-MI has a Hearing Technology Resource Specialist program, which is a team of volunteers that advocate and educate about Hearing Assistive Technology. Grant funds were received through the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, which will go towards webinars, and providing information about Hearing Assistive Technology. HLAA will have a captioned webinar on March 16 from 8-9PM. The topic is "Nurturing Resilience in the Face of Hearing Loss" with psychiatrist Michael Harvey.

President of MIRID

Andi Chumley, Vice President of Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MIRID) provided a report. The MIRID Spring Conference will be April 9-10, 2016 at Lansing Community College. The topics will be covering domestic violence and substance abuse. There will be a brown bag lunch on Saturday with Sandra Maloney, the Region III Representative for RID. There will also be a MIRID Board meeting and member elections on Sunday. After that, there will be a MIRID-DODDBHH Town Hall meeting with Director Annie Urasky and Director of Law and Policy Dan Levy. MIRID hosts a monthly ethical discussions group at Madonna University on March 21, 2016, April 11th, 2016 and May 23, 2016 from 6-8PM with opportunities to earn CEUs. More information may be found on MIRID's website.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items on the agenda for discussion under unfinished business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

DODDBHH Budget and Advisory Council to Commission

Council Member Mitchell discussed a PowerPoint presentation on the DODDBHH budget which was distributed to Council Members and discussed at a government appropriations subcommittee by a member of the deaf community. Council Member Mitchell notes that the only increase in the DODDBHH budget for this year was for cost of living. Council Member Mitchell outlined three proposed solutions. Council Members raised concerns and requested further clarification from Council Member Mitchell as to a lack of equal community representation regarding this presentation. Council Members also discussed several items such as the Advisory Council's role regarding state government financial operations and clarifications as to the history of the DODDBHH and how long DODDBHH has been under MDCR. Additional information regarding current state programs for the DeafBlind were raised.

NASW Mental Health Bill

Council Member Mitchell reported that the National Association of Social Workers group in Michigan (NASW) has been working on a mental health bill focused on Deaf people. This draft is the fifth draft and HLA-MI recently provided recommendations which represent the hard of hearing community so additional changes will be introduced to the current draft. The next step will sending it to the bill drafter for final changes. NASW hopes to see this bill introduced this year.

Hard of Hearing Specialist

Council Member Liming explained that in the past, DODDBHH had a Hard of Hearing Specialist and every time there is a budget crisis, the position is cut. The Rights Representative position is broad and most people cannot identify with that. Council Member Liming added it is important to have someone who knows Hard of Hearing people, who can advocate for specific issues, and who has life experience of being hard of hearing, and could understand the needs of the community. The number of people with hearing loss is increasing and there is a lot of discrimination in the workforce, not just for people who are deaf but also for people who are hard of hearing. Council Member Liming and Council Member Kobylak will be meeting with MDCR to discuss this further.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter motioned the Council Chair should send a letter to the Governor's Office about the importance of adding a Hard of Hearing specialist and a DeafBlind specialist to the Division staff for the following fiscal year. Council Member Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice Chair

MOTION: Chair Gaus nominated Council Member Morrison for the position of Advisory Council Vice Chair. Council Member Morrison accepted the nomination. Council Member Bailey motioned to accept Council Member Morrison as the Vice Chair. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Gaus indicated a three minute timeline will be set for each person providing public comment, and seven people requested to speak.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gaus introduced Christian Young from Holley Family Village and Cheyenne Cox from Western School in Jackson and invited them to speak for a few minutes.

Council Member Johnson announced she has tickets for the DHHS charity benefit on May 12, 2016, which will fund communities that DHHS serves in western Michigan.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gaus thanked all of the accommodation providers today. Chair Gaus requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kobylak motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:05PM.